

# TRIBUTE TO VIC HELLARD, JR.

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who dedicated most of his career to making Kentucky government run more smoothly. For over 20 years, Vic Hellard, Jr., who passed away September 18, worked behind the scenes as the glue that held the Kentucky General Assembly together.

Vic Hellard was born and raised in Versailles, KY, the son of a Ford dealer. He received his undergraduate degree from Eastern Kentucky University and earned a law degree from the University of Kentucky. In fact, Vic and I attended law school together. He later practiced law in Versailles and was twice elected to the State House of Representatives.

After a year as chief counsel to House Speaker Bill Kenton, Mr. Hellard was hired as director of the Legislative Research Commission—the administrative and research arm of the General Assembly. He held this position from 1977 until his retirement in 1995. This career spanned a period of sweeping change in Kentucky government.

Former House Speaker Bobby Richardson told the Courier-Journal, "Vic's legacy is that he turned the LRC into a professional, informed support staff for the legislature, which allowed the legislature to become an equal partner with the governor."

Attorney General Ben Chandler said of Mr. Hellard, "He was the shepherd of legislative independence, but he never accepted the credit he deserved for anything he did. That was part of his charm."

Mr. Hellard was also known for remaining above the fray. He was always courteous to lawmakers regardless of their party affiliation or seniority. He always avoided partisan and factional rivalries.

Vic Hellard, Jr. is survived by his wife, Ellen Carpenter Hellard, his mother, Leona Tilghman Hellard, and two brothers, George D. and Ronald W. Hellard. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this outstanding Kentuckian.●

## AD HOC HEARING ON TOBACCO

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on September 11, I cochaired with Senator KENNEDY an ad hoc hearing on the problem of teen smoking. We were joined by Senators HARKIN, WELLSTONE, BINGAMAN, and SIMON. Regrettably, we were forced to hold an ad hoc hearing on this pressing public health issue because the Republican leadership refused to hold a regular hearing, despite our many pleas.

Yesterday I entered into the RECORD the statements of the Senators who attended the hearing. Today I am entering the testimony of the witnesses from the first panel which included Justin Hoover, a 12-year-old addicted to tobacco, and his DARE officer, Jody Hayes.

Mr. President, I ask that the testimony from the first panel of this ad hoc hearing be printed in the RECORD.

The testimony follows:

TESTIMONY OF JUSTIN HOOVER, SEPTEMBER 11, 1996

Hello, my name is Justin Hoover. I am twelve years old and a sixth grader at Clegg Park Elementary School in West Des Moines, Iowa.

I would like to tell you how I became addicted to cigarettes. I tried my first cigarette when I was six years old. My mother smokes and always kept a carton of cigarettes in her bedroom. I would see her go into her drawer and take a pack of smokes out every now and then. I had an older brother that was fifteen then and saw him and my mother smoking all the time. I wanted to be older than I was and thought smoking was cool and would show everyone that I wasn't a little kid. One day I stole a pack of cigarettes from my mother's drawer, went outside and smoked four or five. My little sister told my mother I was smoking. She found me smoking them. My mother told me that I was never to smoke again or I would be in big trouble. She said that even though my brother and her smoked, it wasn't a good thing to do.

I didn't smoke again until I was nine. I started again because I thought it was the cool thing to do. I saw people smoking on T.V. shows, when we went out to eat, driving down the street on billboards and in stores I would always see tobacco advertisements especially Joe Cool for Camel cigarettes and I always thought it looked kind of cool. I started sneaking cigarettes from my mother again I did that for awhile until I needed more than just one or two a day. I started to steal cigarettes and sometimes chewing tobacco from stores. Sometimes I would sneak out of the house to steal them from convenience stores late at night because that was when the clerk was in the back room a lot making it easier to get away with. I tried to stop three times, but never made it longer than five days before I started again. I would smoke butts that I found in the ashtray at the store across the street. Sometimes I would pick up a bunch of used butts, take several of them and pour the unused tobacco on a piece of paper and try to roll my own. Sometimes I would drop the cigarettes in the house burning the carpet and furniture. One night I fell asleep and dropped a cigarette on the bed. It caught fire and we had to put it out. No one was hurt.

I am now smoking seven cigarettes a day. One in the morning, and six after school and before bedtime. Officer Hayes and my mother have tried to help me stop. I have come close, but can't completely stop.

When I was told that I was going to come to Washington, DC, I was embarrassed to tell people what I have done. But I know that smoking is bad for me and can affect my health. I don't want my little brother and sisters to start smoking. My brother who is three acts like his crayons are cigarettes because he sees all of us smoking. If things don't change, I am sure he will follow in my footsteps. That would make me feel bad.

I believe the only way I will be able to stop smoking is if I can't get them. If stores make them harder to steal, and there are no more vending machines that sell them, I think I could stop. As for my brother and sister, if I don't smoke, and they don't see cigarettes on T.V. or billboards I think they have a better chance of not using them and becoming addicted to cigarettes like me.

Everyone else in my life has tried to help me stop smoking cigarettes. My mother, my brother, Officer Hayes, teachers, my principal and my counselor at school. I came

here today for myself and my brother and sister. I hope you can help us.

TESTIMONY OF JODY HAYES, SEPTEMBER 11, 1996

My name is Jody Hayes. I am a Police Officer with the West Des Moines Police Department located in Iowa. I have been an officer for seven years. I have served as a patrol officer on the street for three of those years. For the past four years I have been a community relations officer. I teach a wide variety of safety education programs to the public, with my primary responsibility focused on teaching drug awareness to the youth of West Des Moines. I do this through the D.A.R.E. program (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*). I am here today to share with you my concern over tobacco use among youth.

As a police officer, I have had the unfortunate experience of seeing how bad the drug problem in society really is. I see kids as young as twelve years old walking home from school with cigarettes in their hand. The police department has hundreds of cases on file where youth have been caught trying to steal cigarettes from stores because they're not old enough to purchase them. Our high school kids cross the street at lunchtime to smoke their cigarettes so they don't get in trouble by the school for smoking on the grounds. It is not uncommon to see twenty or thirty teenagers smoking across from the school during and after it lets out. There are countless teenagers in our community that have worn a hole in their jeans from carrying a chewing tobacco can in the back pocket. Tobacco use among teenagers is the worst I have ever seen.

Some parents that I talk with say "Well, if all they do is smoke or chew tobacco, then that's not so bad. It's not like they're doing drugs." The D.A.R.E. curriculum, which is currently taught to children in every state within America, defines the word drug as this: Any substance other than food that can affect the way your mind and body work. Some people would lead you to believe tobacco doesn't affect both your mind and body.

First, let us consider if it affects the body. What about the high school athlete that used to be the best in his/her class that has now taken up smoking? They can't make it around the track during practice, or run down field to catch a pass during the big game, or even swim an entire lap in the pool because the cigarettes have limited their oxygen intake? What about the band or chorus member who can't seem to manage enough air to play their instrument or to reach the next note they have to sing? What about the deadly diseases that seem to follow tobacco use, like cancer or emphysema? What about gum disease and yellow teeth? What about the tar left behind in their lungs causing them to wake every morning to the sound of coughing and hacking and their body trying to flush the poison out of its system? Yes, tobacco does affect the way the body works.

Does tobacco affect the mind? An addiction is defined in the dictionary as this: "To become psychologically or physiologically dependent upon something." Since the word psychological refers to the mind and behavior, I think it would be safe to say yes, tobacco does affect the way your mind works. It is called addiction. Thus, tobacco is indeed a drug that is both affecting our children's minds and bodies during the most vulnerable time in their life.

Cigarettes are a gateway drug, meaning they are opening the door for our youth to experiment with a world of even more deadly drugs. After tobacco comes marijuana. "Why not," the child asks. Why not try marijuana, I'm already getting smoke in my lungs from